

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

In re Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001

03 MDL 1570 (GBD)(SN)

This document relates to:

*Estate of John P. O'Neill, Sr., et al. v. The Republic of Iraq, et al.*, 04-cv-1076 (GBD)(SN)

**PLAINTIFFS' MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF MOTION FOR FINAL  
JUDGMENT AS TO LIABILITY FOR ADDITIONAL *O'NEILL* PLAINTIFFS AS  
AGAINST THE TALIBAN *AND* FOR PARTIAL FINAL DAMAGES JUDGMENTS  
AGAINST THE TALIBAN FOR MOVING PLAINTIFFS**

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Dated: New York, New York  
November 15, 2022

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## I. INTRODUCTION

This action arises out of the events of September 11, 2001, during which members of the al Qaeda<sup>1</sup> terrorist network hijacked four commercial airliners and used those planes as weapons in coordinated terrorist attacks on the United States (the “September 11<sup>th</sup> Attacks”). Plaintiffs in the above-captioned case include personal representatives and eligible family members of individuals killed in the September 11<sup>th</sup> Attacks.

Plaintiffs in Exhibit A,<sup>2</sup> Exhibit B-1, and Exhibit B-2<sup>3</sup> (Exhibit B-1 and Exhibit B-2 are collectively referred to as “Exhibits B”) (Plaintiffs in Exhibit A and Exhibit B-1 are collectively referred to as “Additional *O’Neill* Plaintiffs”)<sup>4</sup> (Plaintiffs in Exhibit A and Exhibits B are collectively referred to as “Moving Plaintiffs”)<sup>5</sup> to the Goldman Declaration, by and through

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<sup>1</sup> Arabic words and names are spelled differently in various sources. Plaintiffs have strived for consistency as much as possible, but original spellings are maintained in quoted sources.

<sup>2</sup> All exhibits referenced herein are annexed to the Declaration of Jerry S. Goldman, Esq. (“Goldman Declaration”), which is being filed contemporaneously with this Memorandum of Law. The plaintiffs listed in Exhibit A are the relatives of a 9/11 decedent.

<sup>3</sup> The plaintiffs listed in Exhibits B are the personal representatives of a 9/11 decedent’s estate. In all cases, they are submitting claims for compensatory damages as a result of the 9/11 decedent’s death. Where there are expert reports submitted with the Goldman Declaration demonstrating economic losses as a result of death, as outlined therein and herein, the personal representatives are additionally seeking economic damages in the amounts set forth in Exhibits B. Those personal representatives who, at this time, are seeking to solely recover compensatory damages for pain and suffering are specifically reserving their right to seek an additional judgment, at a future date, for economic damages, based upon then-submitted evidence. As noted below, each personal representative has provided the undersigned counsel with proof that he or she has been appointed by the court as the personal representative of the decedent, except in the cases specifically identified herein and in the Goldman Declaration, where a party has filed a petition to be so appointed, which petition, on information and belief, is unopposed, but has not yet been granted. Goldman Declaration at ¶¶ 4-14, 20-28.

<sup>4</sup> Plaintiffs in Exhibit A and Exhibit B-1 were either added to the Fourth Amended First Consolidated Complaint against the Taliban on September 1, 2022 or to the Fifth Amended First Consolidated Complaint against the Taliban on November 3, 2022. ECF Nos. 8486 and 8702. Because the Additional *O’Neill* Plaintiffs were not named on a complaint in the above-captioned action on August 25, 2022, when we requested that the prior liability determination for members of the O’Neill family be “extended to all other Plaintiffs in the above-captioned matter,” *see* ECF No. 8455, out of an abundance of caution, we are now requesting a liability determination for the Additional *O’Neill* Plaintiffs.

<sup>5</sup> Moving Plaintiffs were not previously granted judgments against Iran, and do not have a pending judgment motion against Iran for the damages sought herein.

their counsel, Anderson Kill P.C., respectfully submit this Memorandum of Law in support of their Motion for Final Judgment as to Liability for Additional *O'Neill* Plaintiffs and for Partial Final Judgment as to Damages against the Taliban for Moving Plaintiffs.

First, for the reasons set forth below, the statements contained in the Goldman Declaration, as well as those set forth in prior motions for damages, the Additional *O'Neill* Plaintiffs respectfully move this Court for an Order:

(1) extending the Court's Order at ECF No. 3067 granting a judgment as to liability for the members of the O'Neill family, to the Additional *O'Neill* Plaintiffs;

AND,

(2) granting the Additional *O'Neill* Plaintiffs' motion for entry of default judgment as to liability against the Taliban; AND,

(3) determining that service of process in the above-captioned matter was properly effected upon the Taliban for the Additional *O'Neill* Plaintiffs; AND,

(4) determining that this Court possesses personal jurisdiction over the Taliban for the Additional *O'Neill* Plaintiffs; AND,

(5) determining that this Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over the Taliban for the Additional *O'Neill* Plaintiffs.

Further, for the reasons set forth below, the statements contained in the Goldman Declaration, as well as those set forth in prior motions for damages, Moving Plaintiffs, respectfully further move this Court for an Order:

(1) finding the Taliban jointly and severally liable with the Islamic Republic of Iran ("Iran") and awarding damages judgments to Moving Plaintiffs identified in Exhibit A and Exhibits B, against the Taliban in the same amounts previously awarded

by this Court to various similarly situated plaintiffs in *Burnett*, *Havlish*, *Ashton*, *Bauer*, *O'Neill*, and other cases against Iran (subject to trebling damages as indicated below);  
AND,

(2) awarding solatium damages to those Moving Plaintiffs identified in Exhibit A in the amounts of \$12,500,000 per spouse, \$8,500,000 per parent, \$8,500,000 per child, and \$4,250,000 per sibling, as set forth in Exhibit A; AND,

(3) awarding the estates of the 9/11 decedents, through the personal representatives and on behalf of all survivors and all legally entitled beneficiaries and family members of such 9/11 decedents, as identified by the Moving Plaintiffs set forth in Exhibits B, compensatory damages for pain and suffering in the same per estate amount previously awarded by this Court regarding other estates of decedents killed in the September 11th Attacks, as set forth in Exhibits B; AND,

(4) awarding compensatory damages to those Moving Plaintiffs identified in Exhibits B for decedents' pain and suffering in an amount of \$2,000,000 per estate, as set forth in Exhibits B; AND,

(5) awarding the estates of the 9/11 decedents, through their personal representatives and on behalf of all survivors and all legally entitled beneficiaries and family members of such 9/11 decedents, as identified in Exhibits B, an award of economic damages in the amounts as set forth in Exhibits B; AND,

(6) awarding treble damages pursuant to the Anti-Terrorism Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2333(a), for solatium, economic and non-economic damages, in the amounts set forth in Exhibit A and Exhibits B; AND,

(7) finding that the treble damages awarded are compensatory in nature and not punitive; AND

(8) awarding the Moving Plaintiffs prejudgment interest at the rate of 4.96 percent per annum, compounded annually for the period from September 11, 2001 until the date of the judgment for damages; AND,

(9) granting the Moving Plaintiffs permission to seek punitive damages, economic damages, and other appropriate damages, at a later date; AND,

(10) granting permission for all other Plaintiffs not appearing in Exhibit A and Exhibits B to submit applications for damages awards in later stages, to the extent such awards have not previously been addressed; AND,

(11) granting to the Plaintiffs such other and further relief as this honorable court deems just and proper.

The awards set forth in the attached Proposed Order represent the only direct recovery against the Taliban on behalf of the Moving Plaintiffs for the claims herein and will constitute final awards and judgments against the Taliban for the Moving Plaintiffs.

## **II. PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND**

### **A. Applicable Orders**

This motion is being submitted in accordance with various procedural orders entered by this Court, and the form of this motion and the relief requested herein are intended to comply with various orders of this Court, including the following:

- a. The Court's January 24, 2017 Order, ECF No. 3435, requiring that "[a]ll further motions for final judgment against any defaulting defendant shall be accompanied by a sworn declaration attesting that the attorney has (1) complied with the due diligence safeguards [referenced in Section II.D. of the January 23, 2017 letter from the Plaintiffs' Executive Committee, ECF No. 3433] and (2) personally verified that no relief has previously been awarded to any plaintiff included in the judgment (or, if relief has been awarded, the nature of that relief)."



- b. Magistrate Judge Maas' July 30, 2012 Report & Recommendation, ECF No. 2618, and this Court's October 3, 2012 Order, ECF No. 2623, adopting the Report & Recommendation in its entirety concerning the award of damages;
- c. The Court's October 14, 2016 Order, ECF No. 3363, concerning the amounts of solatium damage awards.
- d. The Court's October 14, 2016 Order, ECF No. 3362, related to *Bauer v. Al Qaeda Islamic Army*, 02-CV-7236 (GBD)(SN) and *Ashton v. al Qaeda Islamic Army*, 02-CV-6977 (GBD)(SN).
- e. The Court's October 28, 2019 Order, ECF No. 5234, setting forth updated procedural rules.
- f. The Court's December 6, 2019 Order, ECF No. 5338, setting forth the scheduling order.
- g. The Court's April 11, 2022 Order, ECF No. 7870, setting forth specific procedures regarding seeking judgments for damages as to the Taliban.
- h. The Court's May 5, 2022 Order, ECF No. 7963, setting forth procedures for filing expert reports submitted in support of default judgments.
- i. The Court's July 11, 2022 Order, ECF No. 8198, setting forth requirements for motions for default judgments against non-sovereign defendants.
- j. The Court's September 20, 2022 Order, ECF No. 8541, setting forth procedures for filing expert reports submitted in support of default judgments.

## **B. Related Cases**

Relying on evidence and arguments submitted by plaintiffs in *In re Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001*, 03-md-1570, the consolidated multidistrict litigation arising out of the September 11<sup>th</sup> Attacks, this Court, on April 7, 2006, May 12, 2006, December 22, 2011, and on October 13, 2015, granted Orders of Judgment on Liability in favor of certain of the *Federal Insurance, Burnett, Ashton, Havlish*, and *O'Neill* groups of plaintiffs against the Taliban (*see* ECF Nos. 1754-56, 1782-97, 2516, 3067). This Court also considered the issue of damages suffered by the *Havlish* plaintiffs and their decedents. Upon the *Havlish* plaintiffs' submissions, on October 3, 2012 this Court found, among other things, that "Plaintiffs may recover for [, inter alia,] solatium...in an action under Section 1605A. 28 U.S.C. § 1605A (4). In such an action,

...family members can recover solatium for their emotional injury; and all plaintiffs can recover punitive damages.” ECF No. 2623 at 2-3, quoting *Valore v. Islamic Republic of Iran*, 700 F. Supp. 2d 52, 83 (D.D.C. 2010). This Court also found that the following solatium awards for family members are appropriate, as an upward departure from the framework in *Est. of Heiser v. Islamic Republic of Iran*, 466 F. Supp. 2d 229 (D.D.C. 2006):

Relationship of Decedent	Solatium Award
Spouse	\$12,500,000
Parent	\$8,500,000
Child	\$8,500,000
Sibling	\$4,250,000

ECF No. 2623 at 4.

The Court has applied the same solatium values to claims of other solatium plaintiffs as to Iran in *Burnett*, *Ashton*, *O'Neill* and other solatium plaintiffs in other cases coordinated in the *In re Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001* multidistrict litigation against Iran and sought against the Taliban. *See, e.g.*, ECF Nos. 2618, 2623-24, 3175 at 2, 3300 at 1, 3358 at 9, 3363 at 16, 3399, 3666, 3977 at 7, 4023, 4126, 4146, 4175, 5061-62, 5087, 5138, and 5356.

In that same decision in *Havlish*, this Court also found that plaintiffs are entitled to punitive damages under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act (“FSIA”) in an amount of 3.44 multiplied by their compensatory damages award. ECF No. 2623 at 5. The Court has applied that 3.44 multiplier also to judgments in *Ashton*. *See* ECF No. 3175 at 3 (Report and Recommendation to apply 3.44 punitive multiplier); ECF No. 3229 at 1 (Order adopting in its entirety Report and Recommendation to apply 3.44 punitive multiplier). The Court applied the 3.44 punitive multiplier to the compensatory awards previously awarded in *Burnett*. ECF No.

3666. However, in *Hoglan*, another case in this multidistrict litigation, Magistrate Judge Netburn recommended that the plaintiffs' request for punitive damages be denied without prejudice. ECF Nos. 3358 at 11-16, 3363 at 28. Judge Daniels adopted Magistrate Judge Netburn's Report and Recommendation in its entirety. ECF Nos. 3383 at 2, 3384 at 6.

In the *Havlish* decision, this Court also found that prejudgment interest was warranted for the plaintiffs' solatium damages. ECF No. 2623 at 5. The *Havlish* plaintiffs sought application of a 4.96% interest rate, which the magistrate judge recommended (ECF No. 2619 at 13-14) and Judge Daniels adopted (ECF No. 2623 at 5). In *Ashton*, plaintiffs sought, and the magistrate judge recommended, application of a statutory nine percent simple interest rate for prejudgment interest. ECF No. 3175 at 7-8. Judge Daniels adopted the magistrate judge's report and recommendation and applied the nine percent interest rate in multiple instances in *Ashton* and *Bauer*. See ECF Nos. 3229 at 2, 3300 at 1, 3341 at 1. However, in *Hoglan*, Magistrate Judge Netburn recommended that the 4.96 percent rate for prejudgment interest should be applied to all solatium claims. ECF Nos. 3358 at 17-20, 3363 at 28-29. Judge Daniels adopted Judge Netburn's *Hoglan* Report and Recommendation in its entirety and applied an interest rate of 4.96 percent per annum, compounded annually. ECF Nos. 3383 at 2, 3384 at 6. The Court applied that interest rate, 4.96 percent per annum, to other plaintiffs' awards in *Burnett*.

### **C. Moving Plaintiffs**

Pursuant to the Orders entered at ECF Nos. 7949, 8111, 8150, 8473, and 8695, Plaintiffs were granted leave to add additional plaintiffs to the complaint against the Taliban in *O'Neill, et al., v The Republic of Iraq, et al*, 04-CV-1076 (GBD-SN). The Orders specifically provide that (i) the amendments supplement but do not displace the underlying complaint; (ii) prior rulings, orders and judgments entered in this case remain in effect as to all parties; and (iii) that further

service on the Taliban is not required as a result of the amendments; and (iv) that prior service orders applied.

Moving Plaintiffs were added via the Fourth Amended First Consolidated Complaint, ECF No. 8486 (September 1, 2022), and the Fifth Amended First Consolidated Complaint, ECF No. 8486 (November 3, 2022).

### **III. LIABILITY JUDGMENTS FOR MEMBERS OF THE O'NEILL FAMILY AT ECF NO. 3067 SHOULD BE EXTENDED TO THE ADDITIONAL *O'NEILL* PLAINTIFFS<sup>6</sup>**

#### **A. The Complaint Was Duly Served**

Members of the O'Neill family, in the above-captioned action, filed suit on August 20, 2003 and duly served the Taliban pursuant to publication orders, previously filed as of record, under ECF Nos. 445 and 488. *See* Affidavit of Jerry S. Goldman, ECF No. 3043 (September 21, 2015); *see also* ECF No. 3163 (December 11, 2015) (citing ECF No. 3043-1). Goldman Declaration at ¶ 17.

Pursuant to this Court's Orders, the Additional *O'Neill* Plaintiffs do not need to re-serve the Taliban. *See* Orders at ECF Nos. 7949, 8111, 8150, 8473, and 8695 ("[f]urther service on the Taliban is not required as a result of this amendment, and prior service orders apply, including the Court's order on service by publication at ECF Nos. 445, 488").

#### **B. Liability Was Determined As To Members of the O'Neill Family at ECF No. 3067**

The Clerk's Office previously issued a Clerk's Certificates of Default in the above-captioned matter. *See* ECF No. 3043-4.

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<sup>6</sup> Our request for an order of liability for all plaintiffs in the judgment motion at ECF No. 8455 (August 25, 2022) included the Plaintiffs in Exhibit B-2. The relief requested herein is contingent on the granting of the motion at ECF No. 8455.

As set forth below, members of the O'Neill family filed a motion for default judgments against the Taliban for liability. Such motion was granted, with leave to seek a determination of damages at a later date.

**NAME OF CASE:** *Estate of John P. O'Neill, Sr., et al. v. The Republic of Iraq, et al.*

CASE NO:	04-cv-1076
DATE MOTION FOR LIABILITY FILED:	09/21/2015
ECF NO. OF MOTION FOR LIABILITY:	ECF No. 3042
DATE ORDER DETERMINING LIABILITY:	10/13/2015
ECF NO. OF ORDER DETERMINING LIABILITY:	ECF No. 3067 ( <i>see also</i> ECF Nos. 3163, 3043-1)

**C. The Determination of Liability as to the Taliban Should Be Extended to the Additional O'Neill Plaintiffs**

For the reasons set forth in the motion seeking an entry of a default judgment against the Publication Defendants (including the Taliban) (ECF Nos. 3042, 3043, 3043-1), Additional O'Neill Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Order entered at ECF No. 3067 be extended to the Additional O'Neill Plaintiffs.

Further, for the reasons set forth in this Court's Order at ECF No. 3163, and in this Court's Orders regarding the Additional O'Neill Plaintiffs at ECF Nos. 7949, 8111, 8150, 8473, and 8695, the Taliban has been properly served, and this Court has personal jurisdiction over the Taliban and subject-matter jurisdiction.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> In light of this Court's prior Orders, the motion for the extension of the liability judgments against the Taliban to the Additional O'Neill Plaintiffs may not be necessary. *See* ECF Nos. 7949, 8111, 8150, 8473, and 8695 ("[p]rior rulings, orders, and judgments entered in this case remain in effect as to all parties"). Out of an abundance of caution, we are now requesting a liability determination for the Plaintiffs in Exhibit A and Exhibit B-1.

#### IV. DAMAGES SHOULD BE AWARDED AGAINST THE TALIBAN JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY

On August 25, 2022, undersigned counsel filed a renewed motion for partial final judgment for damages for a subset of plaintiffs in response to this Court's July 11, 2022 Order (ECF No. 8198). *See* ECF No. 8459. That motion is presently pending. By way of the instant motion, Moving Plaintiffs respectfully request that partial final judgments for damages be entered in their favor and against the Taliban jointly and severally.

##### A. Background

According to the caselaw governing terrorism litigation, the “estates of those who [died] can recover economic losses stemming from wrongful death of the decedent; family members can recover solatium for their emotional injury; and all plaintiffs can recover punitive damages.” *Valore v. Islamic Republic of Iran*, 700 F.Supp.2d 52, 83 (D.D.C. 2010) (concerning damages under FSIA); *Ests. of Ungar ex rel. Strachman v. Palestinian Auth.*, 304 F. Supp. 2d 232, 267 (D.R.I. 2004) (finding that under ATA plaintiffs can recover “both pecuniary damages ... and also for non-economic damages, including loss of companionship, society, and mental anguish experienced by the victim's surviving family members, including his siblings ...”); *see also Miller v. Arab Bank, PLC*, 372 F. Supp. 3d 33, 41 (E.D.N.Y. 2019) (ruling that plaintiffs were entitled to solatium damages under the ATA); *Lelchook v. Commerzbank AG*, 2011 WL 4087448, at \*2 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 2, 2011) (allowing plaintiffs to pursue claims for solatium damages is consistent with Congress's incorporation of traditional tort-law principles, under which such damages are available, into the ATA.); *Smith ex rel. Smith v. Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan*, 262 F. Supp. 2d 217, 240 (S.D.N.Y. 2003) (while punitive damages are not available under ATA, its civil action provision “provides for treble damages”).

Moving Plaintiffs identified in Exhibit A are immediate family members of those killed on 9/11, as demonstrated by documentary evidence of their familial relationship to a 9/11 decedent, such as birth or marriage certificates, sworn affidavits, official documents, or other documents signed under penalty of perjury, which attest to a familial relationship eligible for recovery. *See* Goldman Declaration at ¶¶ 4-14, 18-19.

Moving Plaintiffs identified in Exhibits B are comprised of the estates of victims who perished on 9/11, in claims asserted by their personal representatives, as demonstrated by documentary evidence in the form of official documents from probate and administration proceedings from Surrogate's Court, Probate Court, Orphan's Court, and similar judicial bodies. *See* Goldman Declaration at ¶¶ 4-14, 20-28.

With respect to each estate plaintiff in Exhibits B, the personal representative has provided the undersigned counsel with proof that he or she has been appointed by the court as the personal representative of the 9/11 decedent estate, except in the estates listed in the tables directly below, where a petition has been filed to appoint the personal representative, is pending, and, upon information and belief, is unopposed.<sup>8</sup>

<b>CASE NAME:</b>	<i>Estate of John P. O'Neill, Sr., et al. v. The Republic of Iraq, et al.</i>
<b>CASE NO:</b>	No. 04-cv-1076 (GBD)(SN)
<b>PLAINTIFFS:</b>	Michael R. Kuo as the Personal Representative of the Estate of Frederick Kuo, Jr., deceased, and on behalf of all survivors and all legally entitled beneficiaries and family members of Frederick Kuo, Jr.

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<sup>8</sup> The personal representatives of these estates were properly substituted and can carry on the claims of the deceased plaintiffs. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 25; *Roe v. City of New York*, No. 00-CV-9062 (RWS), 2003 WL 22715832, at \*2 (S.D.N.Y. Nov. 19, 2003) (immediate relative not appointed by Surrogate's Court deemed proper party for substitution); *Sinito v. U.S. Dep't of Just.*, 176 F.3d 512, 516 (D.C. Cir. 1999) ("the addition of the word 'successor' to [Rule 25] means that a proper party need not necessarily be the appointed executor or administrator of the deceased party's estate."); *McSurely v. McClellan*, 753 F.2d 88, 98 (D.C. Cir. 1985) (same).

Jessica Geier, as the Personal Representative of  
the Estate of Paul Hamilton Geier, deceased, and  
on behalf of all survivors and all legally entitled  
beneficiaries and family members of Paul  
Hamilton Geier

Each Moving Plaintiff should be entitled to damages in the amounts set forth in Exhibit A and Exhibits B, which reflect the damage amounts previously established and applied by this Court in this and other related cases arising from the September 11<sup>th</sup> Attacks or based upon expert economic reports submitted herewith. In accordance with the ATA, Moving Plaintiffs are entitled to solatium, pain and suffering, compensatory and economic damages, as applicable, and are also entitled to treble damages and prejudgment interest.

Finally, under principles of joint and several liability and traditional tort principles, the Taliban is jointly and severally liable for Moving Plaintiffs' damages. *See* ECF Nos. 2618, 2623-24 (extending *Havlish* damage assessment against Iran to defaulting Non-Sovereign Defendants who were determined to be jointly and severally liable with Iran under traditional tort principles).

#### **B. Solatium Damages**

Whereas claims against Iran arose pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1605A(c) which provides an explicit right to solatium damages under the private right of action, Plaintiffs' claims against the Taliban arise under a number of different statutory schemes including 18 U.S.C. § 2333(a) (the civil-damages provision of the ATA) and the common law. Courts addressing claims under the ATA have almost uniformly allowed "solatium damages in suits brought under the ATA regardless of the availability of such damages under the general tort law of the state in which the district court sits" as such damages evince the deterrent intent of the ATA as a mechanism in the fight against terrorism. *See Rosenberg v. Lashkar-e-Taiba*, 2016 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 87724, at \*75-\*76 (E.D.N.Y. July 5, 2016); *see also Lelchook v. Commerzbank AG*, 2011 WL 4087448, at



\*2 (S.D.N.Y. Aug. 2, 2011) (“permitting Plaintiffs to pursue claims for solatium damages is consistent with both the purpose of the ATA, and Congress’ intention to incorporate traditional tort-law principles into the statute”); *Estate of Henkin v. Kuveyt Turk Katilim Bankasi, A.S.*, 495 F. Supp. 3d 144, 152-53 (E.D.N.Y. 2020). “Family members do not need to be present for the terrorist attacks to recover under the ATA, because ‘a terrorist attack is precisely the sort of situation in which presence at the time is not required in light of the severity of the act and the obvious range of potential grief and distress that directly results from such a heinous act.’” *Miller v. Arab Bank, PLC*, 372 F. Supp. 3d 33, 41 (E.D.N.Y. 2019). In short, courts addressing the viability of solatium claims under the ATA have adopted an almost-uniform view that solatium damages are available under the ATA in the same manner that they are available under the private right of action under 28 U.S.C. § 1605A(c) of the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act.

Analyzing the solatium claims of the families of the *Havlish* victims who perished in the 9/11 Attacks, Magistrate Judge Maas recommended that solatium damages be awarded to the immediate family members of the victims of the September 11<sup>th</sup> Attacks in the following amounts:

<b>Relationship of Decedent</b>	<b>Solatium Award</b>
Spouse	\$12,500,000
Parent	\$8,500,000
Child	\$8,500,000
Sibling	\$4,250,000

ECF No. 2618 at 11.

These exact amounts were adopted by this Court in its October 3, 2012 Order, ECF No. 2623, and applied to the solatium claims against the Taliban. *See* ECF Nos. 2618, 2623-24.

The solatium losses suffered by the Moving Plaintiffs in Exhibit A before the Court in this application are legally and factually comparable to those suffered by the plaintiffs in *Havlish*, as to the Taliban, as well as those granted as to Iran, and sought and currently pending against the Taliban in *Ashton*, *Bauer*, *Hoglan*, *O'Neill* (as to these plaintiffs), and *Burnett*. As such, Moving Plaintiffs identified in Exhibit A respectfully request that the Court grant awards of solatium in the same amounts indicated herein, consistent with this Court's application of those values established and applied in *Havlish* against the Taliban, and subsequently adopted and applied to plaintiffs in the *Ashton*, *Bauer*, *Hoglan*, *O'Neill*, and *Burnett* cases against the Taliban.

### **C. Pain and Suffering Damages for Estates**

As noted above, Moving Plaintiffs identified in Exhibits B include the personal representatives of the estates of individuals who were killed in the September 11<sup>th</sup> Attacks, which seek compensatory damages for the decedent's pain and suffering. This Court previously assessed the entitlement and value of pain and suffering awards to estates for their decedents' deaths in this litigation as to the Taliban for *Havlish*, and as to Iran. ECF No. 2618 at 7-9.

For the reasons articulated by this Court previously, the estates set forth in Exhibits B respectfully request that the Court grant awards for the decedent's pain and suffering in the amount of Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000) per estate. *See id.* at 9; ECF No. 2624 at 1, 3-4 (Judge Daniels awarding \$2,000,000 per estate). *See* Goldman Declaration at ¶ 20.

### **D. Economic Damages for Estates**

Economic damages are specifically contemplated in terrorism litigation, whether under the FSIA, the ATA or otherwise. The economic damages provision is "designed to compensate [a] decedent's heirs-at-law for economic losses which result from [the] decedent's premature death." *Flatow v. Islamic Republic of Iran*, 999 F. Supp. 1, 27 (D.D.C. 1998); *see also* *Ungar*,

304 F. Supp. 2d at 264-65 (its legislative history “indicates that the ATA was to be construed broadly” and giving weight to its co-sponsor’s statement that the ATA “empowers victims with all the weapons available in civil litigation,” suggesting “that Congress intended that the full range of damages should be available to persons entitled to bring actions pursuant to § 2333(a).”). Accordingly, “the beneficiaries of each decedent’s estate [are] ... entitled to recover the present value of economic damages, including lost wages that the decedents might reasonably have been expected to earn but for their wrongful deaths.” *Valore*, 700 F. Supp. 2d at 81-82 (citing *Heiser v. Islamic Republic of Iran*, 466 F.Supp.2d 229 (D.D.C. 2006)). Thus, sponsors of terrorist attacks that kill victims are routinely “liable for the economic damages caused to decedents’ estates.” *Roth v. Islamic Republic of Iran*, 78 F. Supp. 3d 379, 399-400 (D.D.C. 2015) (quoting *Valore*, 700 F.Supp. 2d at 78).

Previously, this Court awarded economic damages in Iran and Taliban cases for the “economic losses stemming from the wrongful death of the decedent[.]” *See, e.g.*, ECF No. 2623 at 2-3. In doing so, it adopted the economic loss calculations set forth in the plaintiffs’ economic expert reports.

Certain of the estates set forth in Exhibits B and as specifically identified and set forth therein, and which provided economic expert reports, transmitted to the Court in the Goldman Declaration, seek economic damages, similar to the plaintiffs in the prior Taliban and Iran cases in this Court under the standards set in the District of Columbia cases cited herein. Goldman Declaration at ¶¶ 21-28.

As described at length in the Goldman Declaration, Moving Plaintiffs retained the services of John F. Beauzile, an expert who possesses a Master’s Degree in Actuarial Science

from Columbia University (“Expert”), to evaluate the economic losses resulting from decedents’ death as a result of the September 11<sup>th</sup> Attacks. Goldman Declaration at ¶¶ 21-28.

As described in more detail in the Goldman Declaration, and the Expert’s Declaration attached as Exhibit D thereto, we obtained, generally through a Freedom of Information Act (“FOIA”) request, entire September 11<sup>th</sup> Victim Compensation Fund (“VCF”) files for a substantial number of 9/11 decedents represented by undersigned counsel.<sup>9</sup> Those files, along with other materials provided by the clients, contained various economic expert reports, VCF applications, VCF work papers and distribution plans, VCF determinations, underlying economic documents, and the like. Using methodology and assumptions described in his declaration, relying on earlier expert reports, determinations by the VCF, and other documents, the Expert prepared up-to-date economic loss expert reports, copies of which are deemed appended to the Expert’s Declaration (Exhibit D) and being filed on ECF with access restricted to the Court pursuant to the Court’s May 5, 2022 Order, ECF No. 7963, setting forth procedures for filing expert reports in support of default judgments.

Based on the foregoing, the Moving Plaintiffs respectfully ask that this Court award economic damages to the estates set forth in Exhibits B in the amounts stated therein, as supported by the expert reports.

#### **E. Treble Damages**

Moving Plaintiffs submit that, under the express terms of the ATA, they “shall recover threefold the damages” awarded. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 2333(a) (emphasis added). The trebling of the damages award in these circumstances is mandated by the use of the word “shall.” *See United*

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<sup>9</sup> We are still awaiting the receipt of additional VCF files from the Department of Justice via multiple outstanding FOIA requests, the processing of which has been adversely impacted by both “normal” delays in responding to FOIA requests as well as special circumstances related to the ongoing COVID pandemic.

*States v. Kahn*, 5 F.4th 167, 174 (2d Cir. 2021) (holding “[t]he word ‘shall,’ in a statute, indicates a command; what follows the word ‘shall’ is ‘mandatory, not precatory’”). Therefore, Moving Plaintiffs submit that each of the values awarded for compensatory damages should be trebled to accord with the mandatory trebling language in the ATA. Plaintiffs submit that under existing precedent, these trebled judgment amounts should also be considered compensatory damages. *See Stansell v. Revolutionary Armed Forces of Columbia*, 16-MC-00405 (LGS) (SN), ECF No. 443 (March 29, 2022) (“**The ATA’s Treble Damages Provision is Compensatory**”) (emphasis in original). A separate column is included on Exhibit A and Exhibits B indicating the final judgment after trebling of the damages values.

#### **F. Punitive Damages**

Moving Plaintiffs are also entitled to punitive damages. In the *Havlish* Report and Recommendation on damages, the magistrate judge explained that a “3.44 ratio ‘has been established as the standard ratio applicable to cases arising out of’ terrorist attacks.” ECF No. 2618 at 13 (quoting *Est. of Bland v. Islamic Republic of Iran*, 831 F. Supp. 2d 150, 158 (D.D.C. 2011)). This Court adopted that recommendation and awarded punitive damages on each compensatory damages category at a ratio of 3.44 (punitive) to 1 (compensatory). ECF No. 2623 at 2. The Court has applied that ratio to awards for plaintiffs in other related cases. *See, e.g.*, ECF No. 3175 at 3 (Magistrate Judge Maas Report and Recommendation to apply a 3.44 punitive multiplier); ECF No. 3229 at 1 (Judge Daniels adopting in its entirety Judge Maas’s Report and Recommendation to apply a 3.44 multiplier); ECF No. 3300 at 1 and Exhibit A (Judge Daniels applying 3.44 punitive multiplier to claims in *Ashton*).

However, in *Hoglan*, another case in the *In re Terrorist Attacks on September 11, 2001* multidistrict litigation, Magistrate Judge Netburn recommended that the plaintiffs’ request for punitive damages be denied without prejudice. ECF No. 3363 at 28. Judge Daniels adopted

Magistrate Judge Netburn's Report in its entirety, denying without prejudice the plaintiffs' request for punitive damages. ECF No. 3384 at 6.

In light of the Court's decision in related litigation to defer determination of punitive damage issues until a later stage of the litigation, Plaintiffs herein request permission to address the issue of punitive damages at a later date. *See, e.g.,* ECF No. 3666 (Judge Daniels' Order in *Burnett* authorizing plaintiffs to make an application for punitive damages at a later date consistent with any future rulings of the Court).

### **G. Prejudgment Interest**

An award of prejudgment interest is within the sound discretion of a trial court and is warranted when plaintiffs are delayed in recovering compensation for non-economic injuries caused by acts of terrorism. *See Baker v. Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya*, 775 F. Supp. 2d 48, 86 (D.D.C. 2011). This Court awarded the *Havlish* plaintiffs prejudgment interest at a rate of 4.96% on their pain and suffering damages awards, to be calculated from September 11, 2001, until the date of judgment. ECF No. 2618 at 13-14. This Court, recognizing that prejudgment interest was appropriate in cases such as these cases, adopted the magistrate judge's reasoning, finding that an award of prejudgment interest was appropriate and accepting the rate of 4.96%, as proposed by the *Havlish* plaintiffs' expert.

After the *Havlish* award, plaintiffs in *Ashton* and *Bauer* proposed, and the Court agreed, that prejudgment simple interest at the New York State statutory rate of nine percent per annum was appropriate in cases where the injuries arose in New York and the prejudgment interest used in *Havlish*, 4.96 percent per annum, compounded annually, should be reserved for only those cases where the injuries arose in other states. *See* ECF Nos. 3229 at 2, 3300 at 1, 3341 at 1.

The Second Circuit has held that New York State's statutory prejudgment interest rate should apply to the damages awarded to World Trade Center complex leaseholders in their

litigation against American Airlines and United Airlines brought under the federal Air Transportation Safety and System Stabilization Act (“ATSSSA”). Pub. L. No. 107-42, 115 Stat. 230 (2001) (codified as amended at 49 U.S.C. § 40101); *In re Sept. 11 Litig.*, 802 F.3d 314, 343 (2d Cir. 2015). In that case, the Second Circuit concluded that a federal cause of action under the ATSSSA must look to state rules concerning prejudgment interest. *Id.* Accordingly, the Second Circuit held that New York’s statutory prejudgment interest rate of nine percent as opposed to a lower rate crafted under federal law, had to be applied to the plaintiffs’ claims related to the 9/11 Attacks. *Id.*

However, subsequently, in *Hoglan*, Magistrate Judge Netburn recommended that the 4.96 percent interest rate for prejudgment interest should be applied to all of the solatium claims. ECF No. 3363 at 28-29. Judge Daniels adopted Magistrate Judge Netburn’s *Hoglan* Report in its entirety and applied the interest rate of 4.96 percent per annum, compounded annually to all of the claims. ECF No. 3384 at 6. Thereafter, in *Burnett/Iran II*, the Court again awarded prejudgment interest of 4.96 per annum, compounded annually.

In light of the Court’s decisions in *Hoglan* and *Burnett*, applying the 4.96 percent rate to prejudgment interest, the Moving Plaintiffs respectfully request that the clerk be directed to award prejudgment interest at the rate of 4.96 percent per annum, compounded annually, running from September 11, 2001, until the date of the judgment.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

For the reasons set forth herein, the statements contained in the Goldman Declaration, as well as those set forth in prior motions for damages, Additional *O’Neill* Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court grant an Order:

(1) extending the Court's Order at ECF No. 3067 granting a judgment as to liability for the members of the O'Neill family, to the Additional *O'Neill* Plaintiffs; AND,

(2) granting the Additional *O'Neill* Plaintiffs' motion for entry of default judgment as to liability against the Taliban; AND,

(3) determining that service of process in the above-captioned matter was properly effected upon the Taliban for the Additional *O'Neill* Plaintiffs; AND,

(4) determining that this Court possesses personal jurisdiction over the Taliban for the Additional *O'Neill* Plaintiffs; AND,

(5) determining that this Court has subject-matter jurisdiction over the Taliban for the Additional *O'Neill* Plaintiffs.

Further, for the reasons set forth herein, the statements contained in the Goldman Declaration, as well as those set forth in prior motions for damages, the Moving Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court grant an Order:

(1) finding the Taliban jointly and severally liable with the Islamic Republic of Iran ("Iran") and awarding damages judgments to Moving Plaintiffs identified in Exhibit A and Exhibits B, against the Taliban in the same amounts previously awarded by this Court to various similarly situated plaintiffs in *Burnett*, *Havlish*, *Ashton*, *Bauer*, *O'Neill*, and other cases against Iran (subject to trebling damages as indicated below); AND,

(2) awarding solatium damages to those Moving Plaintiffs identified in Exhibit A in the amounts of \$12,500,000 per spouse, \$8,500,000 per parent, \$8,500,000 per child, and \$4,250,000 per sibling, as set forth in Exhibit A; AND,



(3) awarding the estates of the 9/11 decedents, through the personal representatives and on behalf of all survivors and all legally entitled beneficiaries and family members of such 9/11 decedents, as identified by the Moving Plaintiffs set forth in Exhibits B, compensatory damages for pain and suffering in the same per estate amount previously awarded by this Court regarding other estates of decedents killed in the September 11th Attacks, as set forth in Exhibits B; AND,

(4) awarding compensatory damages to those Moving Plaintiffs identified in Exhibits B for decedents' pain and suffering in an amount of \$2,000,000 per estate, as set forth in Exhibits B; AND,

(5) awarding the estates of the 9/11 decedents, through their personal representatives and on behalf of all survivors and all legally entitled beneficiaries and family members of such 9/11 decedents, as identified in Exhibits B, an award of economic damages in the amounts as set forth in Exhibits B; AND,

(6) awarding treble damages pursuant to the Anti-Terrorism Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2333(a), for solatium, economic and non-economic damages, in the amounts set forth in Exhibit A and Exhibits B; AND,

(7) finding that the treble damages awarded are compensatory in nature and not punitive; AND,

(8) awarding the Moving Plaintiffs prejudgment interest at the rate of 4.96 percent per annum, compounded annually for the period from September 11, 2001 until the date of the judgment for damages; AND,

(9) granting the Moving Plaintiffs permission to seek punitive damages, economic damages, and other appropriate damages, at a later date; AND,

(10) granting permission for all other Plaintiffs not appearing in Exhibit A and Exhibits B to submit applications for damages awards in later stages, to the extent such awards have not previously been addressed; AND,

(11) granting to the Plaintiffs such other and further relief as this honorable court deems just and proper.

Dated: New York, New York  
November 15, 2022

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jerry S. Goldman

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